

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please replace the section heading beginning at page 20, line 1, with the following rewritten section heading:

-- ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- A gland packing characterized in that a water swelling mineral is stuck or impregnated into a surface or an inner part of a gland packing base material. The water swelling mineral is preferably water swelling mica. This gland packing ~~hardly causes~~ substantially eliminates seizing and can exhibit an excellent sealing property even if the amount of leakage of an internal fluid or injected fluid for a lubrication on a sliding surface is lessened as compared with a conventional example. --